198. Rallus aquaticus. "Rascon."

Common, and breeds plentifully in the marshes near Seville.

199. Gallinula chloropus. "Polla de agua."

Resident, nesting in the marshes near Seville, whence I obtained eggs.

200. Fulica atra. "Mancon;" in Valencia, "Focha."

Breeds plentifully in the "marisma," and frequents the Albufera of Valencia in vast numbers in winter. I did not observe it breeding there in May.

201. Fulica cristata.

In Valencia the Crested Coot appears in winter.

In Andalucia the natives do not seem to distinguish it; but it breeds in the "marisma," notably near Madre del Rocio, where I saw it, and obtained identified eggs.

202. Porphyrio hyacinthinus. "Calamon," "Gallo azul," in Andalucia; "Gallo de Cañar," in the province of Valencia.

This fine species, though still tolerably abundant in the marshes of the Guadalquivir, is almost, if not quite, extinct in those of Valencia, where it was formerly very numerous; in the marshes of the island of Majorca its numbers are also sadly diminished. From my own experience, and from clutches of eggs received, the complement appears to be three, which are laid in April. Cavaliere Luigi Benoit, of Messina, assured me that M. Malherbe was quite in error in stating in his 'Faune de Sicile' that it deposited its eggs in February.

[To be continued.]

XVII.—*Notes on South-African Ornithology.*

By E. L. Layard, F.Z.S.

In the last number of 'The Ibis' I had the pleasure of publishing an interesting letter from my friend Dr. Exton, on the habits of *Schizorhis concolor.* During the journey on which these observations were made, Dr. Exton procured a small but very interesting collection of birds, containing several very rare species; and one, which seems quite new to science, I propose to name, in commemoration of its discoverer,

Barbatula extoni, nobis (Exton's Yellow Barbet).

Upper parts greyish-black, verging to pure black on the head; mottled with greenish-white spots, smallest and roundest on the back of the head and neck, larger and more elongated on the back; rump greenish yellow; lesser wing-coverts and primaries on the outer edge bordered with orange-yellow; tail-feathers narrowly edged with dirty white; a brilliant orange patch occupies the anterior portion of the vertex, separated from the bill by a broadish black bar, coalescing with the pure black of the head, and succeeded by a narrow white bar, which covers the nostrils and passes backward under the eye; two short white bars proceed from the edges of this suborbital streak, and are divided by black bars from each other and from the greenish-yellow of the throat and chin; eyebrow small and white. All the underparts dirty pale ashy, more or less tinged with green or greenish yellow. Length 4″ 6‴, wing 2″ 7‴, tail 1″ 3‴, tarsus 6‴.

The nearest ally to this pretty little species is *B. chrysocoma*, from which it differs in the pure black of the head, the rounder shape and fewer number of the greenish-white markings on the upper parts, the greater breadth of the black bar of the forehead, the less vivid orange of the wing-feathers, and in the dull colour of the underparts (which in *B. chrysocoma* are bright chrome-yellow), and notably in its larger size.

In his notes, Dr. Exton writes that he obtained this bird near Kanye, a native town in the Bechuana country (lat. 24° 50′ S., long. 25° 40′ E.), midway between the Marico and the Kalahari desert, and that the stomachs of the only three specimens procured contained the fruit of a species of mistletoe.

In the same region he shot *Laimodon nigrithorax* (Cuv.), *L. leucomelas* (Bodd.), and *Capito vaillanti* (Ranz.). Of the latter he writes that "the note of this bird is a continuous trill, somewhat resembling the quick 'tap-tap-tap' of *Dendrobates* when at work on a decayed tree. I obtained three specimens by following the sound from tree to tree. When calling, they usually perched on the uppermost twig of a tree; and their peculiar jerk of the body whilst producing the sound could then be readily distinguished. The female has the same note as the male. The bill (in the living specimen) is greenish-yellow, tipped with black; the iris reddish-brown. The gizzard contained some berries and shreds of leaves; that of one female contained only shreds of leaves" *.

Dendrobates namaquus (Licht.), *D. brucii*, Malh., and *Campethera bennetti*, A. Smith, were also procured in the same region. *D. brucii* presents some differences from specimens killed in Damaraland, the markings on the breast and underparts being bolder and more elongated; it may be called a local race, if not elevated into a species. In the latter case, I would suggest for it the name of *D. striatus*, as pointing out the striated character of its distinctive marking.

Among Raptorial birds Dr. Exton was fortunate enough to obtain a very fine male of *Erythropus amurensis* in the Matabili country, and a beautiful example of *Aquila desmursi*, Hartl., in the stage of plumage represented by the left-hand figure in plate 77 of the 'Transactions of the Zoological Society,' vol. iv.

This beautiful and rare Eagle was obtained at Kuruman, thus coming within my South-African limits; and I record its addition to our fauna with sincere satisfaction.

Taking advantage of the presence in London of the veteran South-African naturalist M. J. Verreaux, of Mr. J. H. Gurney, whose experience in South-east and South-west African forms, consequent on his study of the collections of Mr. Ayres and the late Mr. J. C. Anderson has been very great, and of the Rev. Canon Tristram, who, as all readers of 'The Ibis' well know, has collected largely in North Africa, and is well up in Larks and Chats, Mr. R. B. Sharpe and myself have submitted to their united inspection fine series of several obscure and doubtful birds, selected from the extensive and rapidly increasing collection of Mr. Sharpe, supplemented by fresh specimens brought home by myself. The result has been the clearing up of much doubtful synonymy, and the fusing into one of several species hitherto deemed distinct. The observations of M. Verreaux, which accord precisely with my own arrived at independently, show that, with regard to South-African species, the nearer you approach the equator the brighter and smaller they become; as you approach the southern or colder limit, larger and more robust forms appear, clothed in duller colours. Birds, therefore, at the opposite ends of the chain, were it not for the intervening links, would be (and have been) separated into distinct species. In some places, however, owing perhaps to partial migrations, small and large races mingle. Again, on the sandy grey soil of certain parts, several species, especially among the Larks and Tit-larks, assume a *grey phase* of colouring, while on the red Karroo soils a *rufous* tint prevails in the same birds; this has likewise led to the manufacture of new species.

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* *Quopopo*, the hideous name adopted by Sir A. Smith, is the general Bechuana name for the Woodpeckers—the word meaning literally *Woodpecker*.

Another fact has been arrived at by the comparison of M. Verreaux's observations with my own. Species which in his time (1818–40) were common and abundant, even in the neighbourhood of Cape Town, both of sea-fowl and land-birds, have now entirely disappeared, or become very scarce, and have been replaced by others heretofore unknown in the locality.

In illustration of what I have previously stated, I may mention that we have proved most conclusively that *Telephonus trivirgatus*, Smith (Zool. S. Afr. pl. 94), is only the small tropical race of *T. erythropterus*, Shaw, which = *T. cucullatus*, Temm., the southern and northern (Algerine) races being perfectly identical!

Again, *Anthus cinnamomeus*, Rüpp. Neue Wirb. p. 103, *A. sordidus*, Rüpp., *l. c.*, t. 39. f. 1, *A. gouldi*, Fraser, P. Z. S., 1843, p. 27, *A. leucophrys*, Vieill., Gal. Ois. p. 262, *Alauda erythronotus*, Steph. Gen. Zool. vol. xiv. p. 24 (1826), and *Alauda pyrrhonotha*, Vieill. (1816), founded on Le Vaillant's plate, 197, 'L'alouette à dos roux' (see also my 'Birds of S. Africa,' pp. 122 and 212), are identical, being founded on birds procured from different parts of Africa, varying in size, brightness of coloration, and sex.

A very large series of these birds, possessed by Mr. Sharpe and myself, unmistakably proves this. *Anthus* (*Alauda*) *pyrrhonothus*, Vieillot, being the oldest name, must take precedence.

Other identifications I leave for the forthcoming revised edition of my 'Birds of S. Africa;' but, in anticipation of it, I may mention that two new birds have been added by me to the South-African fauna, both shot by myself in the Eastern Province, at and near Graham's Town:—

First, *Hirundo puella,* Temm., which was found by Dr. Edwin Atherstone at Graham's Town, and by me in large flocks, perching on the ground on the open space round the Fort at Committee's Drift, in which ruin the residents in the neighbourhood assured me it built. It has also been received from Natal by Mr. Sharpe. It was not found by M. Verreaux at the Cape. Its chief habitat seems the Fantee country, whence Mr. Sharpe has several specimens.

Secondly, a *Pycnonotus,* which Mr. Sharpe believes to be identical with *P. tricolor* (*Ixos tricolor,* Hartlaub) from Angola. I confess I do not quite agree with him, though I admit that the species run much into one another. In an Angola specimen before me, which Mr. Sharpe takes to be a bird in full plumage, the upper parts, including the head, and wing- and tail-feathers, are of a uniform rufous brown, differing considerably from the blacker brown of a young bird of the Cape race. Though the colour of the back approaches that of a fine adult male shot by me in March, that specimen has dark black-brown wings and tail-feathers, and a very distinct dark cap on its head, not visible in the young bird. Again, *P. tricolor* has the brown of the chest much more distinctly marked, and separated from the pale (nearly white) abdominal region; in the Cape bird the abdomen is of a confused whitey-brown, which mingles with the brown of the chest. *P. tricolor* has the inside of the shoulders nearly pure white; in the other this is brown. The yellow vent of the Cape bird is also much deeper, and more brilliant in colour.

I know that not much dependence can be placed on the length of a stuffed skin; but the general appearance of the Cape bird is more robust than the Angola specimen of *P. tricolor.* Careful measurements show the following results:—

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Hinder nail.	Bill.
Angola bird	7″ 3‴	3″ 7‴	3″ 6‴	9‴	3‴	7‴
Cape bird	8″	3″ 10‴	3″ 8‴	11‴	3½‴	8½‴

Any one acquainted with the *Pycnonoti* knows the strong family resemblance between the various species; and, unwilling as I am to make new ones, I cannot but look on this as at least a local race, though I forbear to give it a name. Hitherto its western limit, within my range, has been Graham's Town; to the eastward it extends to near Delagoa Bay, where Mr. E. C. Buxton obtained it, and at once noted the black eyelid, which distinguishes it from our other two species, *P. capensis* with the white eyelid, and *P. nigricans* with the red eyelid.

I should not wonder if this was the species intended to be described by Le Vaillant as "Le Cudor," Ois. d'Afr. pl. 107. fig. 2. The locality in which it was procured would seem to indicate this; and the explanation which M. J. Verreaux gives of the circumstances which led Le Vaillant to figure so many eastern and fabricated specimens as South-African enables one to comprehend many hitherto inexplicable blunders.

M. Jules Verreaux, when very young, was personally acquainted with Le Vaillant; what a link to the past it seems! He states that when Le Vaillant collected in S. Africa he knew nothing of ornithology as a science. His collections were nearly all lost by the sinking of the ship in which they were being transmitted to Europe; but he saved his MS. notes, and, being unwilling that the work of so many years should be entirely lost, he rummaged every collection to which he could get access. Where he found any bird which he thought resembled (or actually was) what he had shot at the Cape, he figured it, and appended to it his notes of the real Cape bird. In this way he became a prey to unscrupulous traders and bird-skin makers, and figured many species closely allied to African birds, but which have not the least claim to be called South-African.

In justice to Le Vaillant—to whom, on the other hand, I have always accorded full praise as a most accurate observer when his bird really did exist in S. Africa—I lose no time in publishing this explanation. Still I must say, as a certain Lady Mayoress is said to have exclaimed, "He didn't ought to to have done it."

XVIII.—*Notes on some Passerine Birds, chiefly Palæarctic.*

By H. B. Tristram, LL.D., F.R.S.

Professor Spencer F. Baird has most kindly forwarded to me for examination the types of the species of Passerine birds collected in Alaska by the Scientific Expedition under Mr. Kennicott and Mr. Dall. These prove, as Prof. Newton has already remarked (Ibis 1870, p. 521), the decided Palæarctic bearing of the avifauna of Russian America—a hint that Nature sanctioned its tenure by the Czar.

1. *Saxicola œnanthe* in no respect differs from a Lapland specimen shot at the same time of year, the month of May.

2. *Budytes flava,* St. Michael's Bay, 6th June, with white superciliary streak, is identical with specimens in breeding-plumage from the Atlas, Palestine, and Lapland.

3. *Phyllopneuste kennicotti,* Baird, St. Michael's, 16th August, proves identical with *P. borealis,* Blas. The synonymy of this species, therefore, is *Phyllopneuste borealis,* Blas. ('Naumannia,' 1858, and 'Ibis,' 1862, p. 68), =*sylvicultrix,* Swinh., =*kennicotti,* Baird, =*eversmanni,* Midd., nec Bp., =*flavescens,* G. R. Gray.

I may observe that there is considerable variation in size in the specimens forming the magnificent series of this species collected by Mr. Swinhoe in China, particularly in the size of the bill; but as all the specimens were collected in the same district in spring and autumn, and possess no other diagnostic characters, I cannot separate them. Nor are the variations greater than in British specimens of *P. trochilus.*

Mr. Swinhoe possesses a specimen, obtained by v. Schrenk, from the Kurile Islands, which agrees with the Alaska bird in having the bill as small as in the smaller Chinese specimens.

All the summer-killed specimens before me, from Alaska, the Kuriles, and Lake Baikal, have the bill and tarsi rather darker than in Chinese spring and autumn birds. This agrees with the observation of Blasius ('Ibis,' 1862, p. 70).

4. *Pyrrhula coccinea,* var. *cassini.* This most interesting bird proves, as was conjectured by Prof. Newton (Ibis, 1870, p. 521), to be a new and good species, and must stand, therefore, as *Pyrrhula cassini,* Baird, distinguished from *Pyrrhula coccinea* by the absence of any red on the lower parts, which are

of precisely the same brown as in the female of *P. griseiventris*, while the back is of the same rich ashy hue as in the male of *P. coccinea.* In measurements it very slightly exceeds the largest specimen I possess of the latter. It is a male bird, shot January 10th, at Nulato, and is evidently adult, from the rich, well-defined black colour of the head. The cheeks are faintly tinged with rose.

This large and fine Bullfinch evidently bears the same relation specifically and geographically to *Pyrrhula griseiventris*, Lafr., which *P. coccinea* does to our more southern and western *P. rubicilla*, Pall.

This bird makes the second new species added to the genus since the publication of Mr. Blyth's paper (Ibis, 1863, p. 440).

We may therefore now arrange the species of the genus *Pyrrhula*, as restricted, thus:—

A. Species inhabiting the northern region. All with black heads.

a. With white rump.

Majores.—1. *Pyrrhula coccinea*, De Selys, Europe.
2. *P. cassini*, Baird, Alaska.

Minores. 3. *P. rubicilla*, Pall. (=*pyrrhula*, L., *vulgaris*, Temm., *europæa*, Leach), Europe generally, except Scandinavia (?) and the extreme south.
4. *P. griseiventris*, Lafr. (=*orientalis*, Temm.), Japan.

b. Without white rump.

5. *P. murina*, Godm. Azores.

B. Inhabiting the Himalayan region. Without a black head.

6. *P. erythrocephala*, Vig. Himalayas generally. Head red in male, and yellow in female.
7. *P. aurantiaca*, Gould. Kashmir. Head and back orange in the male.
8. *P. erithacus*, Blyth. Sikhim. Head and back ash-coloured, pectoral region bright red.
9. *P. nipalensis*, Hodgs. Eastern Himalayas. Head and back ash-coloured, lower plumage paler ash-colour.

The two geographical groups of *Pyrrhula* are thus very broadly distinguished by the presence or absence of the black head.

I must take the earliest opportunity of correcting a mistake into which I was led in the last number of 'The Ibis' (1871, p. 110), when I stated that *Sylvia maacki*, Schrenk, was identical with *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. I was led into this error by receiving from Paris two specimens wrongly labelled as *S. maacki*. I have since found that the true *S. maacki* is perfectly distinct, and is a *Calamoherpe*. I can only plead, in apology, the difficulties of a naturalist writing isolated in the country, dependent entirely on his own library and collection.

A careful comparison of a series of specimens from Japan, China, and India has shown me that *Reguloides occipitalis*, Jerd., J. A. S. xiv. p. 593, is identical with *Pyllopneuste coronata*, Temm. & Schl., and that this species extends its range through India, China, Japan, and Siberia, where it ordinarily breeds. Of course Temminck's name will have the precedence.

While thus reducing the number of Sylviads, I think I am fully justified in separating the eastern and western forms of *Anthus cervinus* and *A. rufigularis*, which have generally been treated as synonyms.

An examination of a very large series of specimens, including the largest collections in England, has satisfied me that there are two distinct species of Red-breasted Pipit in the Old World:—a western form, having in summer the throat rufous with broad black spots on the breast, and the abdomen a dusky white, which extends from the Western Siberia westwards; and the eastern form, which is distinctly separable by the absence of the pectoral spots in summer, and by the extension of the chestnut coloration from the throat to the abdomen. This form extends from South China to Kamtschatka. I should assign to this the name *A. rufigularis*, Brehm, which is evidently taken from a specimen of this bird in winter, but for the evidence before me that Brehm intended to designate the western bird.

Pallas's description (Zoogr. Ross.-As. i. p. 511) applies to the western, not the eastern form. My own skin, marked by

Brehm himself, is an Egyptian specimen, and distinctively of the western type. Consequently Brehm's name merges as a synonym. Middendorff notes his species in Siberia under these two names. I cannot apply Pallas's name, which has the priority, to the eastern form, as he distinctly states, "Gula late, collum, jugulumque colore exolete ferrugineo, versus pectus sensim dilutiore. Juguli latera punctis acutis nigris. Pectus pallidum, latera lineolis nigris longitudinalibus. Venter et crissum alba," —all of which apply to the western, not the eastern form. I think, therefore, that henceforth *A. japonicus*, Temm. & Schl., must be the accepted name for the eastern, as *A. cervinus* for the western form, Temminck's type having clearly the rufous throat and *abdomen*. *Anthus rosaceus*, Hodgs., is clearly distinct, being very common in North India at all seasons, and having always sulphur-coloured axillaries, which are never found in the chesnut-breasted bird. These Indian species have been worked out with extreme care by my friend Mr. W. E. Brooks, C.E., who has recently discovered *Anthus spinoletta* in great numbers in the North-west Provinces in winter.

XIX.—*Supplementary Notes to 'The Birds of India.'* By T. C. Jerdon, Retired Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Madras.

The following notes contain additional information on the habits and geographical distribution of many of the birds of India, gleaned by the author in his travels in the north-west of India, Assam, and other parts, since the publication of his book, notices of additional species observed by himself or other ornithologists, and observations on various critical remarks that have been made by commentators on 'The Birds of India.'

As it is intended in a future edition of 'The Birds of India' to include the birds of Assam, the Khasia Hills, Cachar, Tipperah, &c., as far as Chittagong, a few notices will be found in these notes of certain species found in those localities, but not included in 'The Birds of India.'

1. VULTUR MONACHUS.

I found this fine Vulture by no means rare throughout the